Opposition to revival of nuclear power

*312. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that scientists in the US and European Parliament had opposed the revival of nuclear power;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is also aware that the war industries and the Nuclear Suppliers Group countries are anxious to dump their hardware in India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that some sections of public opinion in Europe and the United States oppose revival of nuclear power. At the same time, there is renewed interest in nuclear energy even among sections, which have earlier opposed nuclear power, due to considerations of energy security and environment protection. In the USA, several dozen reactors are in various stages of proposal development. European countries such as France and Finland continue to set up nuclear power plants. In Asia, there is greater interest in nuclear power; countries such as South Korea and China are building more nuclear power reactors while others in South East Asia and West Asia are planning to set up nuclear power plants for the first time.

(c) and (d) International trade in nuclear hardware, controlled by the Nuclear Suppliers Group, is limited. India's imports of nuclear items or conventional arms will be based on a sovereign assessment of our needs. The question of dumping of hardware on India does not arise.

Rapid rise in global warming

*3I3. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come to know about rapid rise in global warming during the period 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) how far it is expected to go up during the period 2007-08;

(c) how it has adversely affected the fertility of the agricultural land, water resources and breathing of human being and animals; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of human beings and other living creatures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the results of analysis of data on global temperature anomalies by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA and Climate Research Unit (CRU), University of East Anglia, UK, which is used by World Metrological Organization (WMO), the-years 2005 and 2006 have been observed to be the warmest, however, there are no specific projections for the year 2007-08.

(c) Climate Change is a long term process and it is difficult to assess its effects on various sectors in the short term. However, according to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, many natural systems are being affected by regional climate changes, particularly temperature increases. A global assessment of data since 1970 has shown, *inter alia,* that by 2050s, annual average river runoff and water availability are projected to increase by 10-40% at high latitudes and in some wet tropical areas, and decrease by 10-30% over some dry regions at mid-latitudes and in the dry tropics. Drought-affected areas are likely to increase in extent, heavy precipitation events are very likely to increase in frequency. The report mentions impacts on Ecosystems, Food, Fibre and Forest products, Coastal systems and low-lying areas. Industry, Settlement, Society and Health.

(d) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol address the issues related to climate change. India is a Party to both these agreements and the Government of India is conscious of the various concerns that may arise due to climate change. The existing legislative and policy frame work in various sectors of concern, together with programmes which target conservation of rivers, improvement of urban air quality, enhanced forestation, promotion of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency etc. contribute to addressing climate change issues. There are also various programs addressing climate variability concerns, the expenditure of which accounts for 2.6% of our GDP in 2006-07. These include cyclone warning and protection, coastal protection, floods and drought control and relief, major and minor irrigation projects, control of malaria, food security measures, and research on drought resistant crops, and several others. Further, the Government has set up the "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" on 7th May, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts. In addition, a Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th June, 2007 constituting eminent persons to evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the National level and provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment.

Satellite based system for fishermen

*314. SHRl B.J. PANDA:
MISS PRAMILA BOHINDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to install Satellite based system to help fishermen in distress in the ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time-frame within which it would be installed on the Orissa coastline; and

(d) the total number of boats that would be equipped with this system in a phased manner in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN); (a) Yes, Sir.